

will see solar power cars race from Chicago to Southern California, over the Great Plains, the Rockies and the great American desert. Clearly, solar power offers something for everyone.

In October 2000, at the Utility Photovoltaic meeting in Baltimore, Department of Energy officials announced that more than 100,000 solar energy systems had been installed in the U.S. since the beginning of the solar roof initiative. Under the Clinton administration, the Department of Energy had organized 51 partnerships from coast to coast—dedicated to working on matters such as interconnection, electricity restructuring, and Federal solar purchases.

Through the efforts of the solar industry, with the support of the federal government, solar technology has made substantial progress in recent years. The cost has been reduced to \$.20 per kilowatt hour, and further reductions are expected. As a result, sales are increasing at a dramatic rate. Sales of photovoltaics within the United States has been growing at a rate of 25% a year. The United States photovoltaics industry is a strong exporter, with almost 70% of U.S. production going to export sales. There is room for growth in our exports. Currently, the U.S. has about 20% of the world market and Germany and Japan each has a larger market share than our country.

I believe that we need to continue the Federal government's role in promoting the development of this technology. The Federal government should continue to be a major customer, and help the technology reach its full potential. My bill will express Congressional support for the type of program established by the Clinton administration, and provide the necessary funding. My bill establishes a goal for the Federal government during the next five years to acquire photovoltaic systems for Federal buildings which will produce at least 150 megawatts of electricity. This will accomplish the goal of the 20,000 solar roof initiative. The bill authorizes appropriations of \$210 million a year for the next five years, the level of funding needed to purchase approximately 18,000 photovoltaic systems. The bill also establishes a program for evaluation of the systems used in Federal facilities to ensure that the government is encouraging development of the most advanced technology.

Mr. Speaker, using Federal government procurements to "jump start" a technology is not without precedent. In fact, photovoltaic technology itself is a product of space technology, and was advanced by NASA in the Hubble space station program. As a result, photovoltaic systems power nearly every satellite today as they circle the earth. Similarly, in the early days of the computer era the cost of microchips was prohibitive. Large-scale purchases by the government (NASA and DOD) helped bring the costs down to commercially competitive levels. As another example, the General Services Administration, using its FTS 2000 telecommunications contract, was also successful in promoting advancements and enhancements in telecommunications.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the program established by my bill can make a major contribution to energy efficiency, protection of the environment and reduced dependence on foreign energy. I will be working to incorporate this program in any energy legislation passed in this Congress.

AMERICA HAS EARNED OUR RESPECT AND ALLEGIANCE EVERY DAY

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2001

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, on July 4, our nation will commemorate the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—an astounding historic achievement for liberty and freedom. It's sad that in 2001, political correctness has replaced patriotism and respect for America's achievements with cynicism and even disrespect.

James Merna, Past Maryland Commandant of the Marine Corps League brought this example to my attention during his speech entitled, "Heroes and Role Models for Today and Tomorrow," at the Elks Club Flag Day Observance in Frederick, Maryland on June 10.

In May, Mr. Fran Parry, a track coach from Gaithersburg High School in Maryland was suspended for 12 days. Why? He confronted and reprimanded a student who was disrespectful during the Pledge of Allegiance. The student replied that he wasn't American and didn't have to be respectful during the Pledge.

It took support and pressure from other students, parents and the community after the incident became public before Coach Parry was reinstated.

America has earned our respect and allegiance every day.

I submit Mr. Merna's entire speech for the Record and I urge my colleagues and all Americans to read it.

REMARKS OF JAMES E. MERNA, PAST MARYLAND STATE COMMANDANT, MARINE CORPS LEAGUE, AT THE ELKS CLUB FLAG DAY OBSERVANCE, FREDERICK, MD, JUNE 10, 2001

"HEROES AND ROLE MODELS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW"

Thank you for inviting me. I am honored to speak to the Elks, one of America's largest and most influential fraternal organizations.

At the outset, allow me to extend my congratulations to the Frederick Elks Lodge on the celebration of your 100th anniversary this year. This is an accomplishment of which you should be justifiably proud, for a century of service in brotherhood to each other, to your community, and to the nation. I wish you many more years of good fellowship and service.

I have a number of ties to the Frederick community, forged in years of friendship and admiration. Let me mention just three:

(1) The Shangri-La Detachment, Marine Corps League. This great organization was originally formed here in Frederick, I believe, in 1948. After many years of service, it became somewhat inactive. A few of us came here in 1968, helped reissue its charter and get it reinvigorated, and today it flourishes as one of the most active detachments in the entire League. I made many good friends here, among them, your own Tommy Grunwell, Ken Bartgis, and the late Charlie Horn.

(2) Ben Wright, your football coach here at Governor Thomas Johnson High School. Earlier in his career, before he coached your Patriots, he coached three of my four sons when he was the head football coach at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, in Greenbelt.

He's a true winner in every respect, athletically and morally.

(3) My son John Merna, Major, U.S. Marine Corps. Two summers ago, John commanded a reinforced Marine rifle company (Echo 2-5) on a five month cruise in the South China Sea. The float was part of the Seventh Fleet whose purpose, besides being a good will mission for the U.S., was to conduct amphibious exercises and training with designated Asian forces.

Nonetheless, let me offer a few of my observations on the current fervor, or the lack thereof, for patriotism in America today, and what needs to be done, if anything, particularly with regard to our youth.

We can start by asking ourselves, who still observes Flag Day today? We may see a few houses in our neighborhoods who will fly their flags on their porches or in their front yards. But, increasingly, we no longer feel compelled to honor the flag. That kind of patriotic display is steadily be' regarded as old-fashioned or tedious. Contrast today to a little more than 100 years ago when Flag Day in 1894 drew some 300,000 people to city parks in Chicago alone. Unfortunately, powerful forces in our society, popular culture, and political circles oftentimes emphasize our cultural differences, rather than our unity as Americans.

Let me mention a recent incident that occurred only two and a half weeks ago, just down the 270 Pike from here, in Gaithersburg, Maryland, which should give us cause for concern. Many of you may already know the story. It was in the Washington Post on May 23rd. It involves a local high school track coach from Gaithersburg High School who was suspended for 12 days for confronting a student who was disrespectful during the school's reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

I was incensed as soon as I heard of this incident. Here we have a 27-year veteran of the Montgomery County school system, a highly successful track coach who has won three state and 15 regional titles, suspended from his teaching and coaching jobs only because he attempted to get a student to show respect while the Pledge of Allegiance was being recited in the school.

The coach's name is Fran Parry. He lives a stones throw from here, in nearby Clarksburg. I called and spoke to Coach Parry Tuesday, just five days ago. He told me that it was a spontaneous event, that the student who is a football player and who was on the track team, rushed past the coach who asked him to stop while the Pledge of Allegiance was being recited. The student angrily replied that he wasn't an American and didn't have to. The coach told him that was a bad attitude and that he had relatives who died for the very freedoms that the student enjoys. The student just laughed at Coach Parry and said "So what." The coach told me he didn't think too much of the incident until the next day when he was summoned to the principal's office and told he was being suspended from his duties and placed on administrative leave.

The student is black. Coach Parry told me 80 percent of his track team is African-American and they backed the coach 1000 percent. There was not one dissenting voice among them. The coach met with the student's parents, expressed regret over the incident but told them he wouldn't change his message. He was then told by the Deputy Superintendent that he was on leave indefinitely and that there would be an investigation focusing on whether he was a racist.

Coach Parry told me that the community was unbelievably behind him. Families and students called. He had 29 calls one night from people that he didn't even know, from all cultures. Chris Core, on WMAL Radio,